

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

**Medical Officer of Health  
and Sanitary Inspector  
for the year 1943**

## STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Serving with The Royal Air Force since September 1st, 1939).

*Temporary Medical Officer of Health :*

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

(Appointed October, 1939).

*Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor :*

W. B. JENKINS C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

## DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ending 31st December, 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1943.

#### Vital Statistics.

There were 280 live births registered during the year and 9 still births. The birth rate was 18.24 which is again an increase on last year's figure of 17.36, and much above the National rate of 16.5. There were 32 illegitimate births, twice as many as in 1942.

Registered deaths amounted to 217, giving a crude death rate of 14.13 compared with 12.25 in 1942 and 14.20 in 1941. The main causes of death were Cancer and Heart Disease, the latter showing an increase of deaths amongst females and a decrease amongst males. 54% of all deaths took place over the age of 70 and 63% over the age of 65.

The infant mortality rate was 17.85 even lower than last year's record low level of 21.82. Only 5 infants died under the age of one year. All but one of these were due to conditions present at birth and all occurred within the first 3 months of life. There was one puerperal death.

#### Infectious Disease.

There was an increased incidence of infectious disease in 1943 entirely due to a larger number of cases of Scarlet Fever. No large outbreak occurred but the cases were fairly distributed over the district.

The only case of Diphtheria was that of a boy who had not been immunised and probably contracted the disease outside the district. He had a mild attack of the nasal type and made a complete recovery in the Isolation Hospital. No further cases occurred, possibly due to the fact that all the school children but 5 in this parish had been immunised as well as a large majority of children under school age.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

Continued satisfactory progress can be reported in the operation of the Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme. Teachers find that the majority of school entrants have been immunised. This is largely due to the efficient manner in which the district nurses have canvassed their respective districts, only those parishes where there has been no district nurse for some months during the year, show any considerable number of untreated children between the ages of one and five. The comprehensive lists of babies newly registered, or transferred, now obtained regularly from the Food Office, greatly facilitates the making of a complete survey of the district.

During 1943, 105 school children and 225 children under school age were immunised and the final figures for the two groups at the end of December were as follows:—

Age 1-5 years  
84.4%

Age 5-15 years  
90.1%

The figure for pre-school children constitutes a record for the district and reflects great credit on the work of the District Nurses.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There were 9 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1943, with 5 deaths, all of these were of the pulmonary type.

There were 113 cases on the register at the end of the year, a decrease of nine on 1942. This decrease mainly affected the non-pulmonary type of case.

### **Contagious Disease.**

124 cases of Scabies have been dealt with under the Council's treatment scheme. The majority of them were treated with benzyl benzoate lotion at home and in most cases a cure was rapidly effected.

Advantage was taken of the County Council's Scabies Hospital until its closure in August, and 15 intractable cases were admitted there for treatment. Since August no case has received institutional treatment. No proceedings had to be taken under the Scabies Order 1941.

### **Polluted Shellfish.**

Complaints have been received during the year from various local authorities about the pollution of shellfish despatched from layings in the district. The complaints were that samples of shellfish, intended for human consumption, had been found on investigation to fall below the accepted bacteriological standards of cleanliness. As this pollution affects a wider area than that under the jurisdiction of one local authority, it was felt that only a comprehensive scheme dealing with all the layings in the Wash and along the North Norfolk Coast could effect a satisfactory solution of the problem. Every assistance has therefore been given with the preliminary survey, recently carried out by the Ministry of Health, in so far as the Docking area is concerned. The interests of the fishermen have been borne in mind and in places where the chance of pollution appears to be remote, it has been suggested that they should be omitted from any compulsory cleansing arrangements it may be found necessary to make,

I should like to record my appreciation of the helpful co-operation of the fishermen during the investigations.

### **General Survey.**

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year.

The rise in the birth-rate accompanied by a lower infant mortality shows the benefit derived from the extra rations, milk and supplementary foods available to all expectant and nursing mothers, and

young children. There is no doubt that these three classes are now, generally speaking, better nourished than before the War. It is a remarkable fact that, out of 280 infants born during the year only one died of a preventable disease. Infant care has apparently improved as much as infant nutrition.

The increase of deaths from Heart Disease amongst elderly women suggests that as a class they are feeling the strain of War conditions. With the general call-up of young persons and the employment of older women on the land, much hard domestic work devolves on those who are really too old to undertake it.

Apart from Scarlet Fever there has been very little infectious disease. Even the wide-spread Influenza epidemic in the autumn was mild in type and the mortality was very slight.

It cannot be said that the fourth year of war has had a deleterious effect upon the general health of the district.

### **Conclusion.**

I should like to record my appreciation of the helpful support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

# STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	87,386
Resident Population mid-year 1943 (as estimated by Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	16,500
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943)	...	...	...	...	5,860
Rateable Value (end of 1943)	...	...	...	...	£63,279
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£259

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.				Dock. E. & W.
Legitimate	248	125	123	} Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	...	18.24	16.5
Illegitimate	32	13	19				
Total	280	138	142				

Still Births							
Legitimate	9	6	3	} Rate per 1,000 total births ...	...	14.10	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
Total	9	6	3				

Deaths	Total	217	117	100	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.13	12.1
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Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	1	—
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## Infant Mortality :—

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	4	3
Illegitimate	...	1	—
Totals	...	5	3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	17.85	49
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## Infant Deaths.

Age.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1—3 days	...	3	1
2—12 weeks	...	2	1
3—12 months	...	—	—
Totals	...	5	2

(E. & W. = England and Wales);

The causes of death given in this table are supplied by the Registrar-General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes... ..						117	100
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	4	7
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	1	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	4	1
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...	...	...	...	1	—
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	20	16
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	14	18
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	22	27
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	—
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	1
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver...	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of the Liver...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	4
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	2
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	—	—
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	8	2
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	26	13



## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	4	—	—	3	2	—	—

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was:—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ... ..	38	26	64
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	26	23	49
TOTALS ... ..	64	49	113



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the subjoined table.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	43	5	—
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	7	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	1	—
Totals ... ..	54	7	—

# MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH REGULATIONS, 1939.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles ... ..	37	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	—	—

## COUNCIL OFFICES,

DOCKING, NORFOLK.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

**INSPECTIONS.** The number of inspections made in connection with the various branches of Public Health during the year are as follows:—

Slaughterhouses, for meat inspection ... ..	27
Housing (for repairs and overcrowding, etc.) ... ..	80
Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	77
Factories and Workshops ... ..	17
Salvage ... ..	184
Evacuation ... ..	19
Food Shops ... ..	54
Inspections under the Public Health Act, including matters connected with drainage, scavenging, water supplies, etc. ... ..	196
Miscellaneous inspections and visits ... ..	366

**NOTICES.** The following preliminary notices were served requiring the provisions of the various Acts to be complied with:—

Housing Acts ... ..	28	Public Health Act ... ..	23
Milk and Dairies Order ... ..	6	Factories Act ... ..	1

**Statutory Notices:** It was not necessary for the Council to authorise the serving of any statutory notices.

**NUISANCES.** A large number of nuisances and complaints was dealt with during the year. These were all remedied mainly by personal interviews with the people concerned, or, in some cases, by the serving of informal notices. These actions had the desired effect, and in no instance was it necessary to report the matters to the Council for formal action to be taken.

**HOUSING.** Resulting from inspections made under the Housing Act, 28 houses were found to be in need of repairs to make them fit for habitation. Undertakings not to relet until they were rendered fit, were obtained from the owners of 3 houses which were found to be unfit for habitation, and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost. Again, it was possible to have most of the necessary repairs carried out by taking informal action, and the only cases reported to the Council were those where action to obtain an undertaking was necessary.

Difficulty was encountered in a number of cases in getting repairs done, due to the reluctance on the part of some of the owners, owing to the high cost of repairs; and in other cases, due to the impossibility of obtaining builders to do the work. Owing to the depreciation which some property is suffering, it is to be hoped, that after the war, sufficient labour

and materials will be made available for repairing and improving existing housing accommodation, especially under the Housing Rural Workers Acts, and that this aspect of housing will be considered by the Government departments concerned conjointly with the provision of new houses.

The condition of one house at Heacham was found to be dangerous to persons in the vicinity, and steps were taken to have it demolished.

**Housing (Rural Workers) Act.** One application for assistance was received, and the Council made a grant of £80 in connection with the conversion of one building into two separate dwellings at Docking.

**MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.** Regular inspections were made of all animals slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse at Hunstanton; but in March, this slaughterhouse was closed, and all future killing was done at King's Lynn.

Of the 72 cow carcasses inspected, 47.7% were found to be affected with T.B. in some degree, and one whole carcass was condemned for generalised T.B. Of 123 bullock carcasses inspected 4.06% were affected with T.B., and one having generalised tuberculosis. Out of the total of 195 bovine carcasses inspected, 20 heads, 35 lungs, and 10 livers were condemned for T.B. Five livers were condemned for diseases other than T.B., and 17 were trimmed for local affections. One calf carcass was condemned for septicaemia.

26 pigs were inspected, and 20% of these were affected with T.B. in some degree. One whole carcass was condemned for acute swine erysipelas. 537 sheep carcasses were inspected, and T.B. was not found in any of them, and the carcasses as a whole were remarkably free from any form of animal disease.

It will be seen from these foregoing figures that the high incidence of T.B., particularly in cows and pigs, stresses the need for the regular inspection of all animals killed for human consumption as a means of safeguarding the health of the public.

**FOOD SHOPS.** 54 visits were made to grocers shops for the inspection of food suspected to be unsound. 178 tins of canned food, 102 lbs. of bacon, and a quantity of miscellaneous other food was found to be unfit for consumption.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.** The work of visiting cowsheds and dairies for the inspection of the methods of milk production was continued throughout the year. The general standard of cleanliness was found to be fairly satisfactory, and it was necessary to serve only 6 notices for contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order.

After consultation with the producers, it was possible to have carried out the building of 4 new dairies, two of these being equipped with steam sterilisation plants. Two new cowsheds were also brought into use, and one was structurally improved.

**Milk Sampling.** At the end of 1942, the County Council requested the co-operation of District Councils in carrying out the sampling of milk for biological examination, it being felt then by the County Medical Officer that the high rate of non-pulmonary T.B. in children was due to the ingestion of tubercle-infected milk. 54 samples were taken during the year from producers in the district, and not one sample was found to be positive.

From a statement received from the County Council giving a summary of the results of biological sampling in the County for 1943, it is observed that 1.2% of the samples of designated and non-designated milks were positive.

**DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, ETC.** The open portions of the Snettisham sewer, and the River Wensum at East Rudham, received their annual cleansing.

Numerous inspections of drainage systems, etc., were carried out, and steps were taken to effect improvements to drains, cesspools or closets, when this was found to be necessary. Some trouble was experienced with the drainage of Burnstall, Council Houses, Docking, but this was rectified by having the whole system thoroughly cleaned out.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING, (a) Indestructible Refuse.** The collection of indestructible refuse was continued throughout the year with the rota of collections regularly maintained. Collections ranged from fortnightly in Snettisham and Dersingham, to monthly in Syderstone, Creakes, Rudhams, Brancasters, Holme and Thornham, and every two months in Sedgford, Stanhoe, Birchams, Burnham Thorpe and Norton.

Apart from their refuse collection work, the two collectors and the man employed temporarily for Salvage, were actively engaged in salvage work, by (1) salving anything of value from refuse (2) collecting paper from storage depots of parish salvage organisations and taking it to the central depot for weighing, etc, (3) sorting and packing the various salvaged materials. Details of the amount of salvage collected in this way are given under "Salvage."

**(b) Heacham Cleansing Services.** In the early part of the year, it became apparent that the cesspool emptying service was not proceeding satisfactorily, the machine used for this work being quite incapable of dealing with the large number of cesspools requiring attention. Consequently, a report, embodying suggestions for improvement, was submitted to the Parochial Committee, with the result that it was decided to purchase a new cesspool emptier, equipped with an attachment for pail emptying.

The acquisition of this machine led to a considerable speeding up of the work of cesspool emptying, and to such an extent, that whereas previously there had been a waiting period of anything up to 8 or 9 weeks, cesspools could now be emptied a day after receiving the request. The work of pail-emptying was also carried out more quickly.

All this resulted in the Heacham men having sufficient time to undertake all cesspool emptying work at Docking, cesspool emptying of Council Houses throughout the district where contractors are not employed for this work, and, when convenient the emptying of private cesspools, upon payment being made, in parishes where there are no scavenging schemes.

The purchasing of this machine has undoubtedly been an asset to the district in general, and has certainly led to the amelioration of unsatisfactory cesspool-emptying arrangements at Heacham and Docking, arrangements which for some time had given rise to much anxiety.

**(c) Scavenging Contractors.** Cesspool emptying, nightsoil and house refuse collection were carried out by contractors at Burnham Market and Burnham Overy, and at Docking and Ringstead, nightsoil and house refuse was collected. The work appears to have been carried out fairly satisfactorily generally and few complaints were received.

In view of the extreme difficulty at the present time of obtaining labour for the public scavenging schemes, some satisfaction can be felt in the fact that our full personnel strength was maintained, enabling the Council to give a reasonably good service to the greater part of their district.

### SALVAGE.

(a) **Paper.** Most of the paper salvage collections in the district were carried out by voluntary organisations or by individuals who had organised collections in their parishes. A total of 86 tons,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  cwt. was collected in 1943, compared with 103 tons,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. in 1942 and the following tables show the comparative amounts of paper collected per 100 of the population for the last 2 years.

1942.		1943.		Cwts. Paper	
Parish.	Cwts. Paper per 100 of Population	Parish.	Paper collected.	per 100 of Popu- lation.	
Heacham ...	23.03	Brancaster ...	4 7	15.81	
Brancaster ...	20.0	Holme ...	2 $2\frac{1}{4}$	14.08	
Holme ...	18.84	Heacham ...	11 $15\frac{1}{4}$	12.30	
Burnham Market	14.54	North Creake ...	2 $18\frac{1}{4}$	11.65	
Snettisham ...	13.62	South Creake ...	3 6	10.39	
Burnham Overy ...	13.25	Sedgeford ...	3 $11\frac{1}{2}$	9.93	
Burnham Norton ...	12.93	Snettisham includ- ing returns from			
South Creake ...	12.26	Messrs. Lambert	6 $6\frac{1}{4}$		
Ingoldisthorpe ...	11.53	Thornham ...	2 $8\frac{3}{4}$	9.7	
Docking ...	11.49	Burnham Thorpe ...	1 19		
Syderstone ...	10.88	Bagthorpe ...		10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9.6
Dersingham ...	10.50	Burnham Overy ...	1 $15\frac{1}{4}$	8.79	
North Creake ...	10.02	Ingoldisthorpe ...	1 $12\frac{1}{2}$	8.66	
Birchams ...	9.42	Dersingham ...	6 $3\frac{1}{2}$	7.72	
Brancaster Staithe	8.45	Brancaster Staithe	1 $19\frac{3}{4}$	7.22	
Stanhoe ...	8.43	Ringstead ...	1 $3\frac{3}{4}$	5.93	
Burnham Thorpe	8.0	Burnham Market	3 $16\frac{1}{2}$	5.80	
Thornham ...	6.85	Docking ...	3 15	5.76	
Ringstead ...	6.78	Syderstone ...	1 $2\frac{3}{4}$	5.17	
Sedgeford ...	4.72	Birchams ...	1 10	4.3	
Rudhams ...	4.7	Stanhoe ...		15	3.78
Fring ...	3.35	Burnham Norton ...		$5\frac{1}{4}$	3.64
Bagthorpe ...	2.72	Rudhams ...	1 16		3.61

(b) **Miscellaneous Salvage.** With the exception of paper, practically all other salvage materials are collected by the Council's refuse collectors. Table 1 shows the total weight of miscellaneous salvage collected in the district, and Table 2 gives the amounts of those totals collected by the refuse collectors.

Table 1.				Table 2.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.		Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
Iron	16	18	36	Iron	16	17	0
Non-ferrous metal		19	87	Non-ferrous metal		19	87
Bones	7	0	7	Bones	6	14	0
Rubber	2	10	28	Rubber	2	10	28
Rags	2	12	76	Rags	1	5	44
Tins	32	6	45	Tins	32	6	45
Bottles and Jars	1	7	55	Bottles and Jars		16	7
Total	63	14	110	Total	61	8	99



In addition to the weights in Table 2, the refuse collectors collected 20 tons  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cwt of paper, making a total of salvage collected by them of 81 tons  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. The amount received by the Council from the sale of salvage was £193 18s. 5d. A considerable proportion of the paper and tins sold on behalf of the Council was collected from the U.S. Army camp at Snettisham.

Although the weight of paper collected by the parish organisations showed a decline on that of last year, the salvage collected by the Council employees showed an increase of over 20 tons; and according to monthly statements received from the Ministry of Supply, Docking Council averaged 6th position for salvage collected throughout the year, out of 15 Rural Districts in the County. Last year the Council averaged 7th position.

**WATER SUPPLIES.** Fifteen samples of water from the public supply and private wells were taken during the year. The Council's supply continued to show good results, and even if slightly on the hard side, is, nevertheless, a safe and palatable water.

Preliminary negotiations were carried out by the Council with a view to providing Syderstone with a piped supply from a government site. Although the potentialities of these supplies cannot be ascertained at present, there is a possibility that villages within a certain radius of such supplies will be able to derive benefit from them at some future date.

No cases of typhoid fever or any water-borne disease were notified during the year.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** Thirty-two inquiries were made in connection with cases of scarlet fever, and one for diphtheria, and 30 fumigations were carried out after these diseases and tuberculosis.

62 visits were made to families where scabies existed for the purpose of giving advice and supplying treatment. The Benzyl Benzoate lotion supplied is the best form of treatment available, and it is much to the discredit of any family receiving this lotion if scabies continues to exist after the treatment is carried out according to instructions. Where members of naturally clean families have accidentally become infected with scabies, it has been found that the condition responds to treatment in a short time; and it is only in the families who show indifference to any standard of cleanliness where difficulty has been encountered in getting good results.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.** One bakehouse was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition of cleanliness, and the informal notice served on the occupier was complied with.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. JENKINS,

Sanitary Inspector.





